



USS LST-20



Builder: Dravo Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Commissioned: 14 May 1943

Assigned to: LST Flotilla 3, Group 9, Division 17

Decommissioned: 3 April 1946

Disposition: Scrapped, 1947

Length: 327' 9" oa

Beam: 50'

Draft: 1' 6" bow, 7' 5" stern (unloaded); 8' 2" bow, 14' 1" stern (loaded -- at sea);
3' 1" bow, 9' 6" (loaded -- beaching)

Displacement: 1,625 (light); 4,080 (w/ full load of 2,100 tons)

Propulsion: 2 x General Motors 12-567 diesels, twin shafts/rudders

Range: 24,000 nm @ 9 knots

Top Speed: 11.6 knots

Complement: 111

Troops: 163

Initial Armament: 7 x 40mm (single mount); 6 x 20 mm (single mount); 2 x .50-caliber mgs; 4 x .30-caliber mgs

Commanding Officers:

LT Charles W. Smith: 14 May 1943 -

LT Edgard Duprey, USCGR:

LT Raymond F. Garrity, USCGR:

LT(jg) Stanley J. Cieslinski, USCGR:

LT William L. E. Sinkler, USCGR:

LT(jg) Warren B. Eib, USCGR: 8 January 1946 - 3 April 1946

Official History:

USS *LST-20*

LST Flotilla 3, Group 9, Division 17

The Coast Guard-manned USS *LST-20* was laid down on 5 October 1942 at the Dravo Corporation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She was launched on 15 February 1943 and was transported down the Ohio and Mississippi River to New Orleans, Louisiana, where she was placed in commission on 14 May 1943 under the command of LT Charles W. Smith, USCG. She was assigned to LST Flotilla , Group 9, Division 17. During early July of 1943, after sailing through the Canal Zone to San Diego, she proceeded up the West Coast to San Francisco, where cargo and troops were loaded. She departed San Francisco on 17 July 1943, with five other LSTs escorted by the USS *Hutchins* (DD-476) for Woman's Bay, Kodiak, Alaska, arriving there on 25 July 1943.

On 27 July 1943 *LST-20* departed with six other LSTs escorted by the USS *Oracle* (AM-103), *Charleston* (PG-51), and *Hutchins* for Adak Island in the Aleutians.

(No further reports are available on the movements of *LST-20* in World War II are available until 4 April 1944).

On 4 April 1944, *LST-20* was at Kwajalein, Marshall Islands. She arrived at Pearl Harbor on 27 April 1944. On 20 October 1944 she took part in the landings at Leyte, Philippine Islands, on D-Day. On 9 January 1945 she was one of the landing force that arrived on D-Day. She arrived at Okinawa on 6 April 1945 and remained there until she left for Ulithi. On 18 May 1945, she departed Ulithi for San Francisco, where she arrived on 14 June 1945, for 60 days availability.

LST-20 left San Francisco on 26 August 1945, for Iwo Jima, via Pearl Harbor, Guam, and Saipan, arriving 30 October 1945. She returned to San Diego on 23 December 1945. She departed San Diego on 11 January 1946 for Galveston, Texas, via the Canal Zone, arriving there on 1 February 1946. She was decommissioned and her Coast Guard crew was removed on 3 April 1946.

After being struck from the Navy Register, she was transferred to the Maritime Administration on 8 October 1947 for disposal by scrapping. The *LST-20* earned four battle stars for World War II service.

The son of *LST-20* crewman Seaman 1/c DuWayne Stevens noted that *LST-20*'s official history wasn't completely accurate:

"My father was aboard the USS *LST 20* and has a great recall of his service aboard her. . .He believes 100% this is the way the "20" traveled (not the way in the coast guards history shows). Nov 1944 she left Finchhaven New Guinea to Hollandia New Guinea. Left in convoy for Luzon Philipines Jan 1945 and sustained damage. Returned to Guadalcanal for repairs. From there she went to Ulithi to convoy to Okinawa. April of 1945 she went to Guam & then to San Francisco for repairs. She left August 1945 to Iwo Jima from there to Pearl Harbor & then back to San Diego. Jan 1946 she went through the Panama Canal in route to Galveston Texas. April 1946 she went to Houston and was decommissioned. My dad's name DuWayne Stevens, Seaman 1st class, Gunner invasions Luzon & Okinawa."

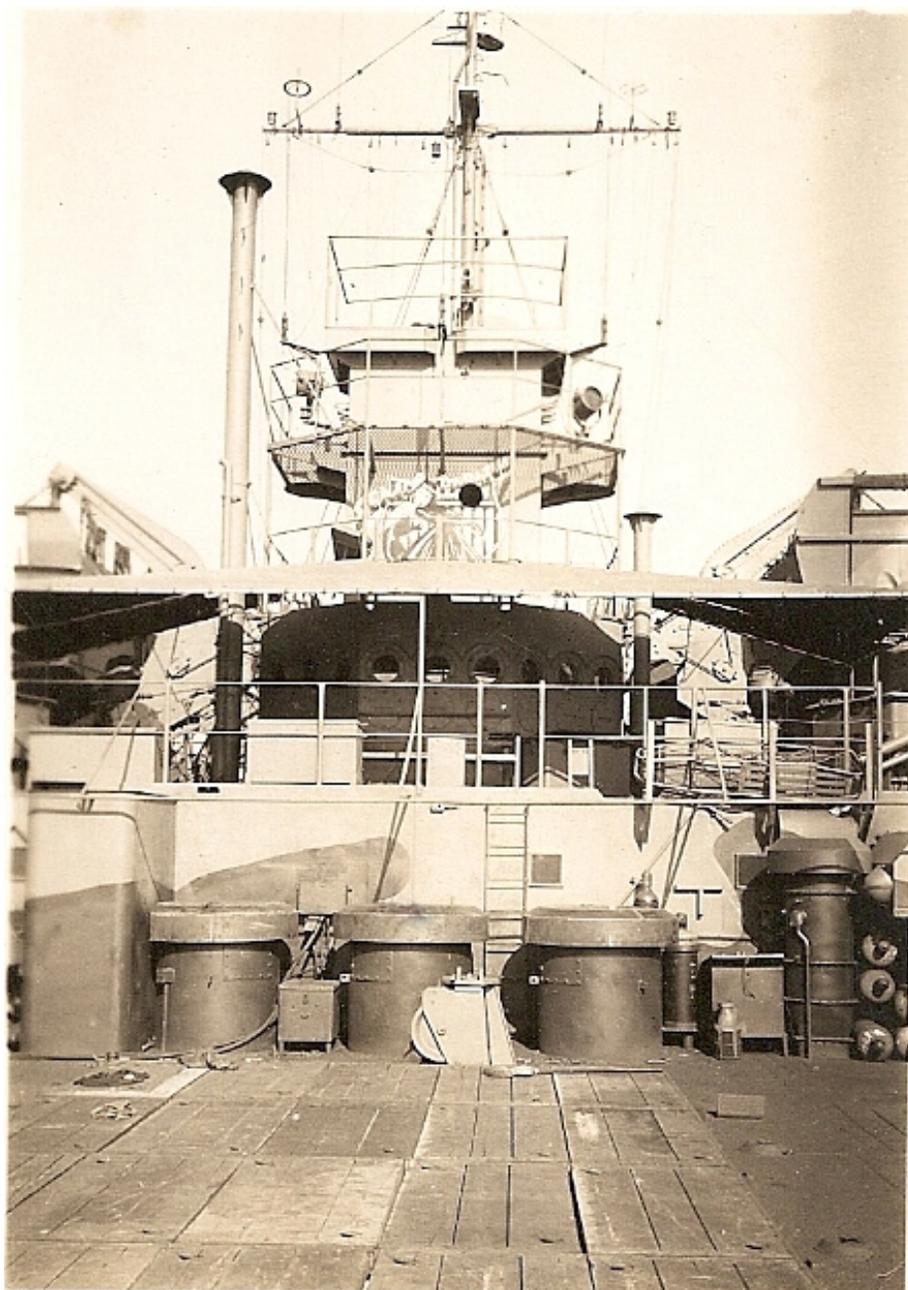
Photographs:



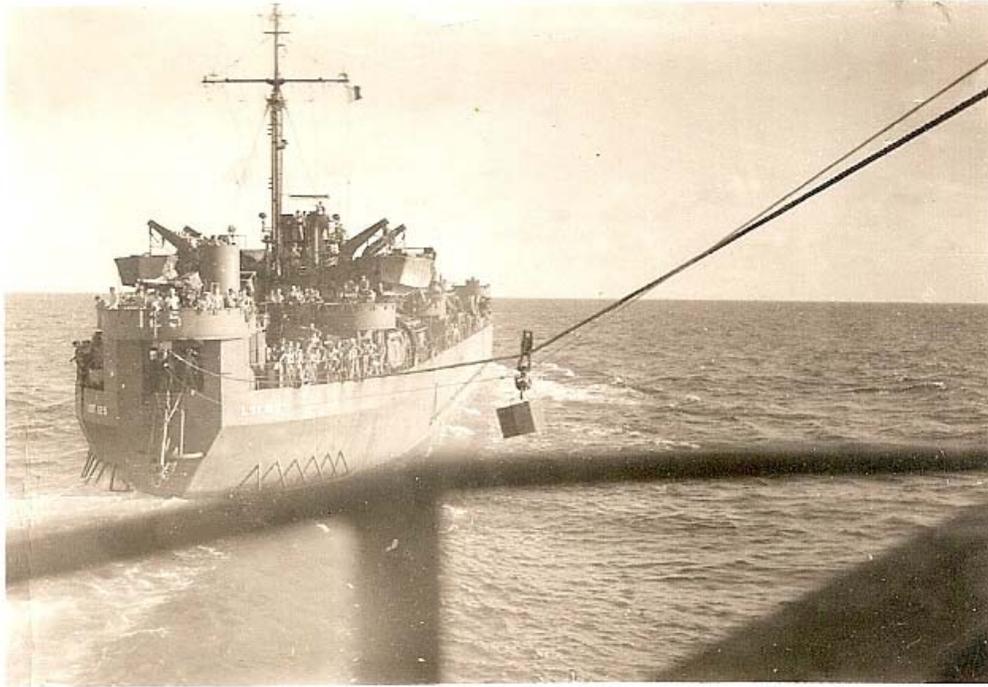
**LST-20, Treasure Island, San Francisco, August, 1945.
Photo from collection of F1c Denny L. Miller, USCGR.
Scan courtesy of Denise Murphy (daughter of F1c Miller).**



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**LST-20, Treasure Island, San Francisco, August, 1945.
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Scan courtesy of Denise Murphy (daughter of F1c Miller).**



**“LST-20 at sea exchanging movies, 1945.”
Photo from collection of F1c Denny L. Miller, USCGR.
Scan courtesy of Denise Murphy (daughter of F1c Miller).**



**“LST-20 at Guam w/ M5, 1945.”
Photo from collection of F1c Denny L. Miller, USCGR.
Scan courtesy of Denise Murphy (daughter of F1c Miller).**



**“LST-20 at Iwo Jima,” November, 1945.
Photo from collection of F1c Denny L. Miller, USCGR.
Scan courtesy of Denise Murphy (daughter of F1c Miller).**



**Officers & crew of the LST-20.
Photo courtesy of the family of Joseph Tezanos, an officer who served aboard LST-20.**

Sources:

Denise Murphy's email correspondence (daughter of LST-20 crewman Fireman First Class Denny Lewis Miller, USCGR).

LST files, Coast Guard Historian's Office.

United States Coast Guard. *The Coast Guard At War. V. Transports and Escorts. Vol. 2.* Washington: Public Information Division, Historical Section, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, May 1, 1949, pp. 66-116.

United States Navy. *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships.* Volume VII. Washington: Naval Historical Center, 1981, pp. 574-742.

